

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of January 13, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 10-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Crouse.

Claims 19-21

Applicant notes that although the Office Action summary indicates **claims 19-21** are rejected, the Detailed Action only addresses **claims 10-13**. Therefore, Applicant's attorney held a telephonic interview with Examiner Goodman to discuss the status of **claims 19-21**. During the telephonic interview, Examiner Goodman indicated another Office Action, which specifically addresses **claims 19-21**, will be issued.

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 10 recites a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid into an area where a strip leaves a roll in a direction generally opposite to a direction of travel of the strip.

Crouse discloses delivery manifold ducts **38, 39** including orifice slots **32, 33**, respectively. Although fluid passes through the slots **32, 33**, the fluid passes in a direction generally the same as a direction of travel of a trim strip **T**. Crouse fails to disclose a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid in a direction generally opposite to a direction of travel of the strip, as recited in **claim 10**. Therefore, **claim 10**, along with **claims 11-13, 19, and 20** which depend therefrom, are patentable over Crouse.

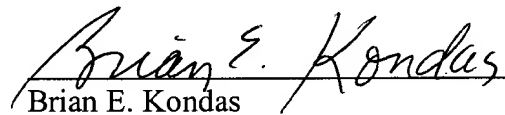
Claim 21 was not specifically rejected under a prior art reference. Therefore, Applicant submits **claim 21** includes limitations not disclosed in the prior art and, therefore, is patentable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian E. Kondas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

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